

# **Facing the Challenges Facing Our Children**

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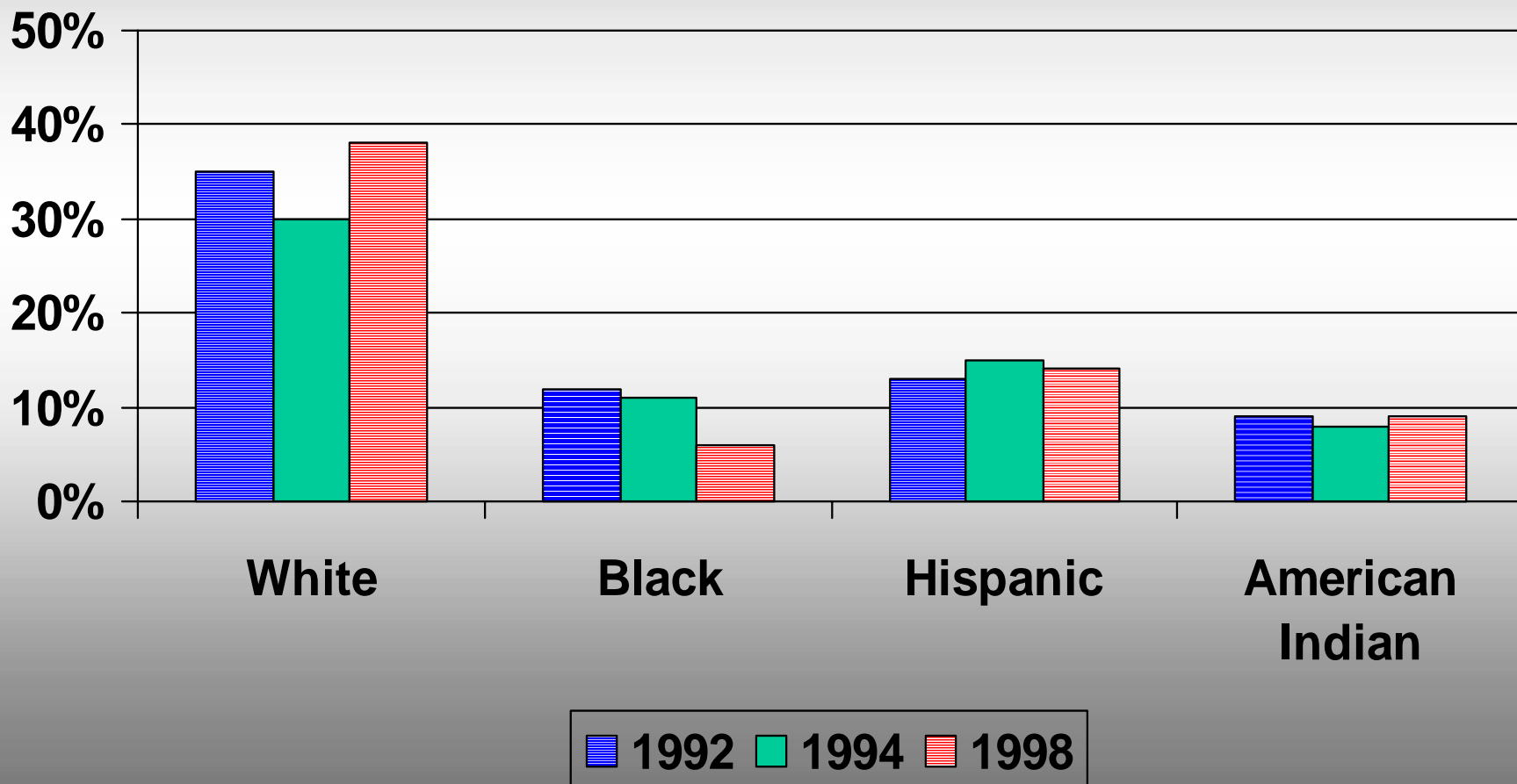
# The Issue of Dropouts

- What Do We Know About Dropouts?
- What Don't We Know About Dropouts?
- What Do We Need To Do?

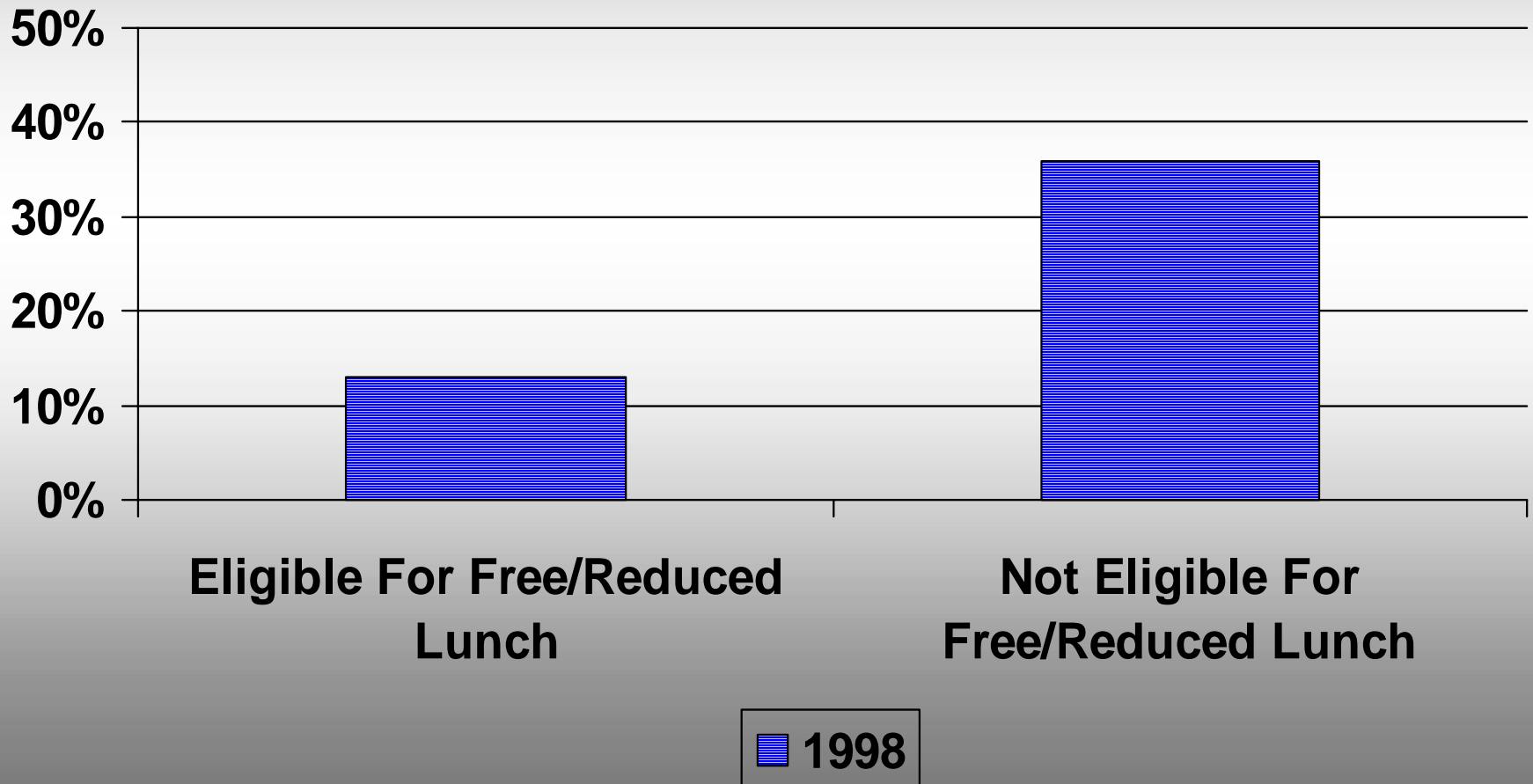
# What Do We Know About Dropouts?

- We Know That We Lose Too Many Students
- We Know That Minority and Poor Students Drop Out At Higher Rates
- We Know That Students Begin To Drop Out Early
- We Know That Everyone Has A Responsibility
- We Know About Successful Programs
- We Know What Good Research Has Recommended

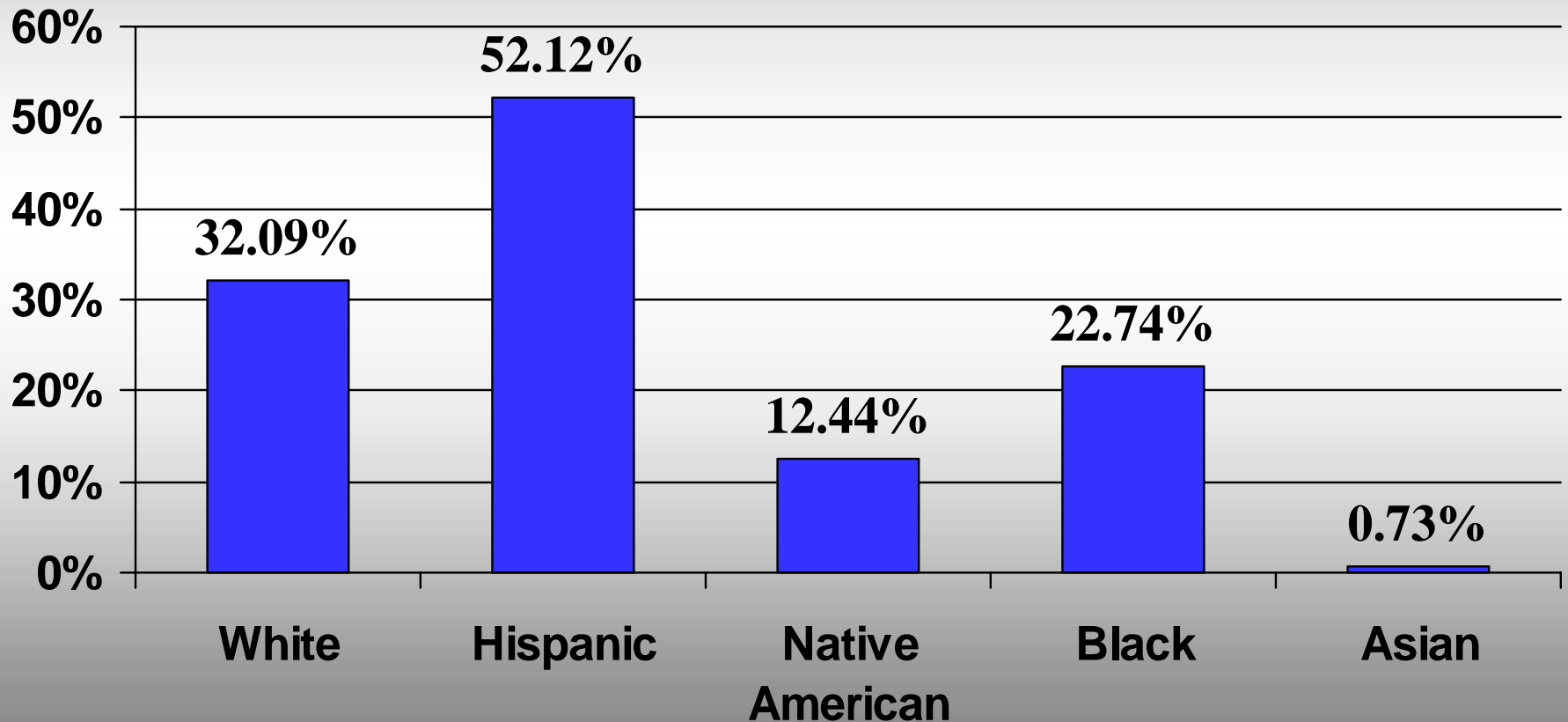
# Percentages of New Mexico's 4th Grade Students At Or Above Proficient on NAEP Reading Assessments By Race/Ethnicity: 1992 to 1998



# Percentages of New Mexico's 4th Grade Students At Or Above Proficient on NAEP Reading Assessments By Free/Reduced Lunch Eligibility

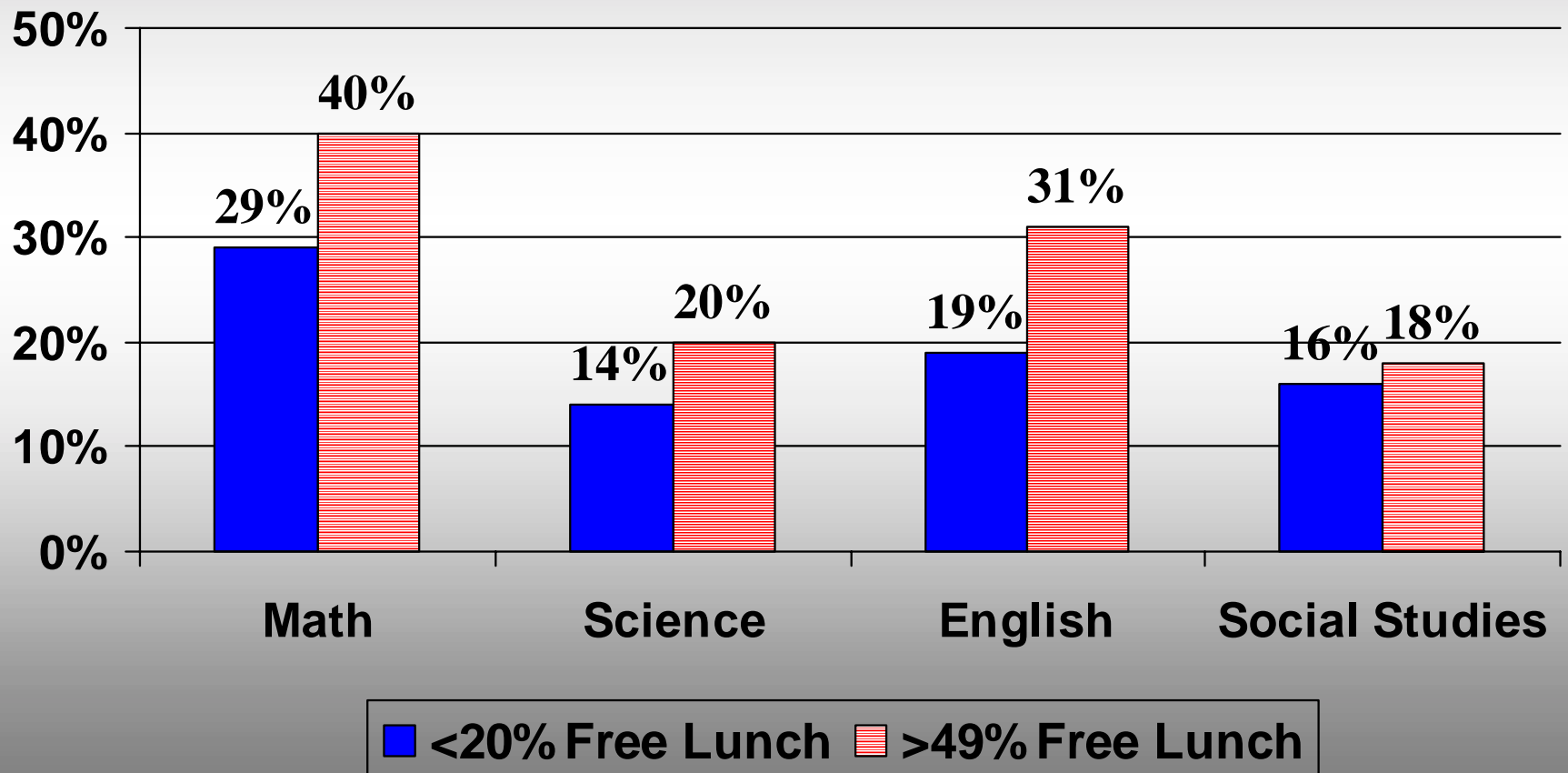


# 73,679 NEW MEXICO STUDENTS DROPPED OUT OF GRADES 9-12: 1987-1997

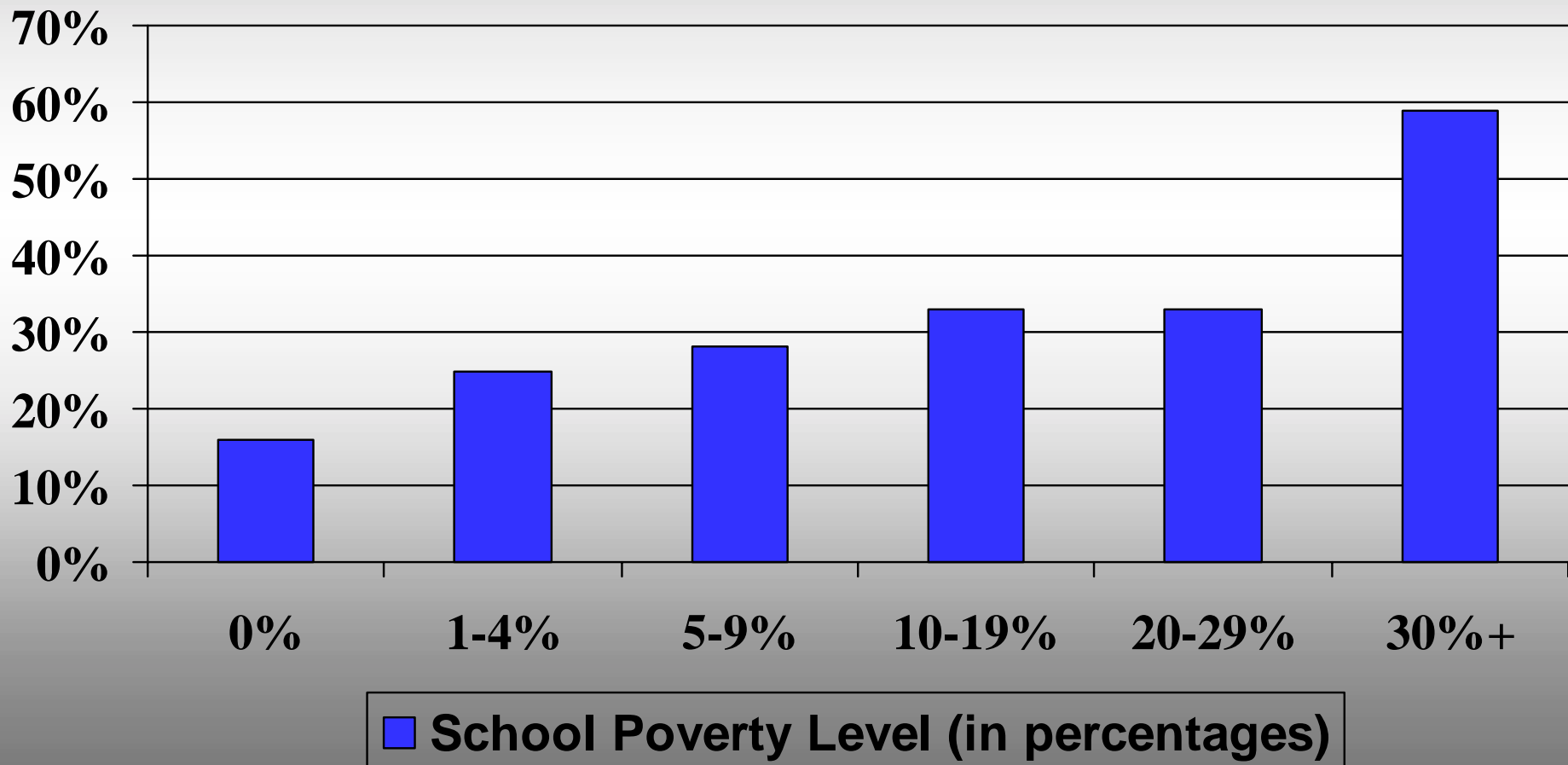


# Classes in High Poverty High Schools More Often Taught by Underqualified Teachers (Teachers who lack even a minor in their field)

## National Data



# Teachers in Poor School Districts Who Lack Reading Resources National Data





# What Don't We Know About Dropouts?

- How To Define The Term Consistently
- How To Measure the Rate Consistently
- How To Take Successful Programs To Scale
- How To Build The Political Will and Leadership To Solve The Problem

# What Do We Need To Do?

- We Need A Clear And Sustained Focus On Improving Public Education
- We Need A Clear And Sustained Focus On The Issue Of Dropouts
- We Need National Help In Definitions, Data Collection, Coordination, Problem Solving, And The Sharing Successful Models
- We Need Help Developing the Political Will To Address The Issue